

THE REXFORTH CIRCULATING LIBRARY

By DONMARK LEMON

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He handed the beggar a half-dollar, for the pathetic old fellow had made a moving appeal, and was about to return to his pocket the other coins in his hand, when one of them slipped through his fingers and started to roll down the sidewalk.

He saw that it was his pocket-piece, a lous d'or with the image of the Grande Monarque, and made a hasty dash for the coin. It escaped him and shot away at accelerating speed down the sidewalk and just inside the flagstone. He lengthened his stride and made another dash for the coin. Some small silver spilled from his hand, but he let it go and followed the elusive Louis XIV. Suddenly the gold-piece struck a ridge in its downward path and shot around the corner of a public court. Baxter followed.

He heard a laugh at his amusing predicament, but did not look up, as his blood was aroused, and he was bound that the coin should not escape down some hole or cranny.

At about three-fourths its length, the courtway lifted a bit, retarding the speed of the coin, which finally swerved in its track and rolled along the flagstone, to reel at last like a very drunken Louis into a doorway, where it lay in the corner, half-propped against the footboard.

Baxter stooped and picked up the coin, and as he arose to a standing posture, a small, neat brass sign met his eye. It was set into the door before which the coin had come to a standstill, and it read:

THE REXFORTH CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

The courtway or narrow street down which the golden louis had led him was wholly new to Baxter, and as he looked about he saw a couple of ladies across the way smiling at his late predicament.

He would step into Rexforth's and recover his serenity. He opened the



"Huckleberry Finn!" He Ejaculated.

door and found himself in a large, well lighted room, fitted up more like a ladies' parlor than a library. Where were the books? He could not see any, and the patrons—all ladies, it would seem—that came and went while he gazed around nonplused did not bring nor take away any object that could have been mistaken for a book.

"This is something new," commented Baxter, mentally: "Must be a book-less library."

Fancies of a new idea in libraries floated through his brain. Perhaps the books at Rexforth's were not printed volumes, but phonographic records, and all the patron needed to do was to draw a wax cylinder of the latest popular novel—the record made by the author himself—take it home and place it on a phonograph, and science, the mother of convenience, would do the rest.

But all this was hypothetical, so he looked about. On the wall near him was a neat typewritten list, headed: "The Six Books Most in Demand by the Patrons of the Rexforth Circulating Library, for the Month of September." His eye ran down the list.

"Third-rail alive!" he murmured, "what kind of ladies patronize this library?"

For the list read: Izaak Walton's Compleat Angler. Shakespeare's King Henry The Fifth.

Last of the Mohicans. Meditations of Aurelius. Samuel Johnson's Dictionary. Huckleberry Finn.

He shut his eyes and tried to puzzle it out, but the more he thought the deeper was his confusion. He studied the ladies waiting to give their orders for books. They all were stylishly dressed, and seemed cultured and well-read. His eye returned to the typewritten list on the wall.

"They're classics, all right," he granted, "But such classics!"

He got up and went over to the secretary's desk. He would join the library and learn something. He was handed a leaflet which informed him that the monthly dues were ten dollars, the members having the privilege of drawing each month two books in class one, three in class two, four in class three, and so on! A fine of two dollars a day being imposed for a book kept overtime.

Baxter whistled mentally. "The books must be bound in vellum and gold-tooled!" He laid ten dollars on the secretary's desk, and after a little telephoning, by means of which his references were authenticated and approved, he was entered in the books as a member of The Rexforth Circulating Library, and credited with one month's paid-up dues.

He did not remove the sealed wrapper from the catalogue that the secretary gave him, but upon being assured

by the young lady presiding over the order desk that a copy of Huckleberry Finn was on the library shelves, he had her make out a slip for that classic.

He thought to get his Huckleberry and take it with him—he was in a hurry to have a look at the binding of the volume—but the young lady calmly informed him that the book would be sent around to his address that afternoon by the first delivery. If he would turn to rule seven in the catalogue, he would learn that such was the delivery regime of the library.

"Very well," he said, and left the building. By following downwards for a short distance the narrow but well-paved courtway, then turning to the right along a similar courtway, thence to the left and again to the right, he emerged upon a busy, familiar street, where a number of carriages were waiting, no doubt for patrons of the Rexforth Circulating Library.

That afternoon a parcel bearing the stamp Rexforth was delivered at Baxter's club room. It was of mammoth dimensions for a book, and he began to fear that the librarian had blundered and sent him, instead of a modest octavo by Mark Twain, a folio Shakespeare, if not the ponderous Johnson's dictionary itself. So he nervously undid the wrappings, and there lay before him in a neat paper box a lady's handsome skirt, with some manner of fluffy pink trimmings or flounces, he didn't know which. He poked gingerly at the dainty garment. "Huckleberry Finn!" he ejaculated. Then a great, big truth leaped up in Baxter's mind, like the grimacing face of a jack-in-the-box, and hastily removing the manila cover and opening the catalogue he had received at the library, he turned to H. Bracketed with the title of Huckleberry Finn was the description of a lady's fancy ball skirt.

His eye ran over some other book titles, with the things in ladies' dress-wear bracketed against them. Then he sat down weakly. The Rexforth Circulating Library was a woman's dress-renting establishment, where ladies, by paying a certain monthly sum, could "draw" stylish dresses for temporary wear.

Each dress, skirt, waist, or hat, bore the name of some well-known book—a kind of code arrangement for privacy, brevity and convenience—and upon examining his library card Baxter found Mrs. prefixed to his name, the secretary, no doubt, having been under the impression that he had acted for his wife in joining the R. C. L., for that establishment made its appeal exclusively to the gentler sex.

NEW PAINT DRIES WET ROOMS.

Engineers Believe Old Roman Secret Has Been Discovered.

A discovery which promises to revolutionize the building and decorating trades and to be of vast importance to the shipping industry has been made by Inspector Simpson of the Black-burn (England) fire brigade. It is a liquid, and the principle of which, after tests extending over many months, has been pronounced by leading engineers to be an old Roman secret, which has been lost to the world for 700 years. When painted with this liquid the dampest room becomes absolutely dry, and freshly plastered walls, after treatment by it, may be at once papered without damage to the paper.

No ironwork painted with it can rust, and it completely prevents that "weeping" of the inner skins of iron ships, which causes so much damage to cargo. When applied to the bottom plates of ships it not only prevents oxidation, but allows no marine growth, barnacles or other parasites to attach themselves. It consequently preserves a glasslike surface, which the discoverer asserts will add several knots to the speed of Atlantic liners and warships.

The Hairless.

Here they come at me again for preventives of baldness. How many times must I repeat that no kind of soap should be used on the hair or head? Now here is the last call for dinner, as the dining-car waiter yells: Know all women by these presents: Avoid all fancy soaps. You never can tell where the fats come from. By no means apply a cake of hard soap to your hair. You can never wash it out. It solidifies on the scalp and causes no end of trouble. If you must use hard soap of the fancy kind, convert it first into light suds and wash your hair with the suds. Then stand under a shower and stay there until every particle of the suds is washed away. Then go out and sit in the swing until the pure air blows all moisture away. The hair being dried, apply pure olive oil and rub it in hard. And quit using stink-sweats (so-called perfumes) on your hair to render it fragrant. Goda! —New York Press.

The World to Come.

A distinguished German scholar who had devoted his faculties to what he claimed to be the demonstration of atheism came consistently to his death bed. He was prepared, he said, to prove out of the expiring sparks of his own life that it must become a quenched and blackened flame. He observed the processes of dissolution calmly, with the long habit of the scientific method. Friends, themselves unbelieving and unhoping, stood about him, waiting to catch the last flicker of defiance from a soul to its God. For some hours he had lain unexpectantly silent and with eyes closed. He had very dark, large eyes, piercing and powerful. Suddenly he opened them, and from their caverns shot out a fire before which the coldest scowling in the room shrank back. With a loud voice the old scholar cried out: "There is another world!" and fell upon his pillow, dead.—Elizabeth Stuart Phelps.

RUSTY CANS RUIN FLAVOR AND QUALITY OF THE MILK

A Great Handicap to the Cheesemaker—By George A. Olson, Asst. in Agricultural Chemistry, Wisconsin University.

Milk comes in contact with iron in the form of rusty cans or poorly tinned utensils in practically all creameries. The quality of the milk will to a large extent depend upon the condition of utensils into which the milk is poured, kept, and finally hauled to the factory. The degree of influence of iron on milk will depend largely upon the temperature of the milk, the length of time kept in the cans, and the amount of exposed surface.

It is not necessary to describe here the American milk can, and especially the cheaper ones; if not the first time, surely the second or third time these cans are used, one will find places where they have been dented in. As the number of indentations in-

crease the tin begins to crack, leaving fissures or inroads for milk and water, and acid. Often this thin layer of tin does not cover all of the iron, thus leaving microscopically small surfaces of iron exposed which also become the sources of damage by water and acid. Under such conditions the tin peels or falls off, and it is then only a short time before the cans become unfit for use.



Wagon Load of Factory Cans in Actual Use. Nearly all of These Are Unfit and Should Be Rejected.

The accompanying illustration shows a wagon load of cans which were in a poor condition, and from which milk was accepted. This load is only an example of several equally bad, if not worse. The same conditions were found to exist at several factories. The creamery to which the above load was delivered did not receive milk on Sundays, and the quantity of milk brought in on Monday was generally twice as large as on any of the other days, and consequently required twice the number of cans. Among the large number of cans required for Monday's shipment, there were naturally more poor ones. In our other illustration is shown two of the cans which were used for Monday's lot of milk. One of these cans had been used for 13 years and when closely examined contained no less than 40 soldered holes, some of which were covered with lead patches over two inches in diameter.

Of course this is an extreme type

of cans, but it is not unusual to find cans in this condition. The accompanying illustration shows a wagon load of cans which were in a poor condition, and from which milk was accepted. This load is only an example of several equally bad, if not worse. The same conditions were found to exist at several factories. The creamery to which the above load was delivered did not receive milk on Sundays, and the quantity of milk brought in on Monday was generally twice as large as on any of the other days, and consequently required twice the number of cans. Among the large number of cans required for Monday's shipment, there were naturally more poor ones. In our other illustration is shown two of the cans which were used for Monday's lot of milk. One of these cans had been used for 13 years and when closely examined contained no less than 40 soldered holes, some of which were covered with lead patches over two inches in diameter.

For growing calves I consider separator skim milk at least equal to whole milk, though calves will not lay on as much fat as they will when the latter is fed. There is nothing in butter fat that a calf can use in building body tissue. Nutrient can be supplied more cheaply with flax meal which contains from 30 to 35 per cent. oil. When the calf is dropped I let it suck once and then remove it from the dam. If it is removed in the morning I give it no feed until the following morning. This is done so the calf will be hungry and will drink milk without the finger. I give from three to four pints of its mother's milk twice a day, immediately after milking. A small calf gets three pints and a large calf four pints. This I continue for one week. Then for one week I give whole milk half and skim milk half, twice a day, giving only from three to four pints. The third week I feed all separator skim milk, adding a teaspoonful of ground flax. I gradually increase the skim milk and flax meal so that by the end of the fourth month the calf is receiving a heaping teaspoonful of flax meal and ten pints of milk twice a day. After the first month it has access to a little early cut alfalfa and whole oats or a mixture of whole oats and bran or shorts. The important points are strict regularity in time of feeding, quantity and temperature of milk, which should be from 98 to 100 degrees F.

GROWING CALVES ON SKIM MILK

By Prof. Haecker, Minnesota.



Cans Like the Three Shown Above Have a Deleterious Effect Upon Milk for Cheesemaking.

of poor can. Milk kept over night in cans of this kind when treated with rennet would require in some instances as much as 40 minutes longer to coagulate than milk kept in good ones.

By using cans of the type illustrated it is possible to accept from patrons milk which really has developed more than two-tenths per cent. acid which cannot be revealed by either the Manns or Farrington alkaline tablet test, owing to the neutralization of the acid by the iron.

The unsanitary conditions that still exist at some Wisconsin factories, at the present time are largely due to the use of unclean utensils, such as starter cans, iron pipes for conductors, whey tanks, etc. Where such conditions exist at the factory, it is not surprising that the patrons also become negligent. The management of cheese factories and creameries should first of all see that their operator is a good, reliable man, who will practice cleanliness above all other things. Then the management should see that all utensils used by factory and patrons are in first-class condition, i. e., with no exposed iron in vats, rusty cans, etc. Since neatness and cleanliness in all dairy methods would be ineffectual if poorly tinned or rusty cans, etc. were used.

The operator should not hesitate to refuse milk which is hauled in poorly tinned or rusty cans, for in addition to the retarding influence of the iron on rennet action, and the neutralization of the acid by the iron, there are also produced taints or off flavors.

LATE STRAWBERRY PLANTING

By Prof. Haecker, Minnesota.

For growing calves I consider separator skim milk at least equal to whole milk, though calves will not lay on as much fat as they will when the latter is fed. There is nothing in butter fat that a calf can use in building body tissue. Nutrient can be supplied more cheaply with flax meal which contains from 30 to 35 per cent. oil. When the calf is dropped I let it suck once and then remove it from the dam. If it is removed in the morning I give it no feed until the following morning. This is done so the calf will be hungry and will drink milk without the finger. I give from three to four pints of its mother's milk twice a day, immediately after milking. A small calf gets three pints and a large calf four pints. This I continue for one week. Then for one week I give whole milk half and skim milk half, twice a day, giving only from three to four pints. The third week I feed all separator skim milk, adding a teaspoonful of ground flax. I gradually increase the skim milk and flax meal so that by the end of the fourth month the calf is receiving a heaping teaspoonful of flax meal and ten pints of milk twice a day. After the first month it has access to a little early cut alfalfa and whole oats or a mixture of whole oats and bran or shorts. The important points are strict regularity in time of feeding, quantity and temperature of milk, which should be from 98 to 100 degrees F.

LATE STRAWBERRY PLANTING

Strawberries may be planted even in the hottest weather. In midsummer it is easy to distinguish in an old bed the prolific plants which it is desired to use in propagating a new plantation.

At a university experiment station it was desired to start a new plantation to furnish fruit the following year. An old strawberry patch which contained some excellent varieties had just finished bearing. The plants which were most prolific were marked with stakes, and a plot of ground was carefully prepared beside the old patch. At the first signs of rain the marked plants were lifted with the spade full of earth adhering to them, and carried to the new ground. About 1,000 plants were transplanted in this manner. They grew rapidly so vines covered the ground by winter and they bore bountifully the next spring.

A moderate rainfall distributed through the summer is required to make the plants thus treated grow rapidly. This method of planting has many distinct advantages. It permits of the careful selection of prolific plants, hence in improvement by selection it is valuable. It gives the plants more time to grow than those set in the fall, it gives more time to cultivate and destroy all weeds, allows the gardener to start his new plantation after the old one has borne and permits the old patch to be plowed under and the weeds destroyed before maturity.

She Don't.—Somebody calls the farmer's wife the "silent partner." But why should she remain silent?

PRETTY BLOUSES



The first illustration shows a bodice of a lawn dress, it is made on a lining to which the vest of tuck muslin and insertion is stitched. The lawn fronts are tucked on the shoulders, and are edged with two rows of embroidery. The undersleeve is turned up below the elbow with a cuff edged with embroidery. The over-sleeve is trimmed with insertion, and is stitched on after the actual sleeve has been sewn on.

The second is in pale blue zephyr, tucked on the shoulders, and trimmed each side the center box-pleat with open work embroidery insertion. The cuffs are finished with insertion, edged with pleated lace.

The third garment is composed of flouncing embroidery, the plain part of the center pieces being tucked, the edge of the side embroidery being laid over the plain. The sleeves are arranged in the same way. The deep pointed collar is of plain muslin, edged with a frill of lace.

MAKES USEFUL LITTLE WRAP.

Bolero in New Style Easily Made Up in Crochet Work.

This useful little wrap is quite easy to make. Any kind of wool and a suitable hook (tricot) may be used.

Work a chain of 15 inches; on this chain work plain tricot for seven inches.

Work off each stitch separately like double crochet for eight inches, and the remainder of the row in tricot as before.

Work two more short rows of tricot like the last; on completing the last



row make as many chain-stitches as will bring the work to its original length.

Continue working long rows as at first for 22 inches, or more if for a stout person.

Work off the same number of stitches for the armholes as before, repeat the short rows and work a second front to match the first, each stitch of the last row to be worked off separately like double crochet; fasten off.

Fold the fronts over, and sew or crochet the shoulder pieces together. Work a row of double crochet round the armholes, taking up the back top thread and the thread which lies immediately below it.

Last row: Work a double crochet in the first of last row, pass one, a treble in next, * five chain, back into first, another treble in same place as last, repeat from * twice more, pass one, double crochet in next, and repeat all round.

Work this last row all round the bolero, using the double crochet row for the fronts if required.

IN LINEN AND PIQUE.

Later Material the Best for Summer Costumes.

Linen jumper frocks and linen coat and skirt suits are popular this season and every woman wants them in her wardrobe, but there are other things more practical when one is cutting down the list as much as possible. The linen coat will get out of shape in laundering and the linen costume of any description looks deliciously fresh and cool for about an hour if the wearer has luck, then begins to look more or less if its wearer had slept in it.

Of course, it can be pressed out when one reaches home, but in the meantime it is not beautiful and the pressing is not easy. Certain linens crush less readily than others and they are all as pretty as they are fashionable, but they are unquestionably annoying, especially if one passes the summer out of touch with an expert landress.

Pique is popular again and muses less easily than linen, but is not offered in the beautiful colorings found among the linens. For plain white

TO CLEAN WHITE WINGS.

Two Preparations That Will Do the Work Effectively.

Wings are much more difficult to clean than are the softer feathers, such as ostrich and marabou.

You might cover them with a cream made from naphtha and French chalk, allowing it to dry on for a day, and then brush off. A slight improvement from an application of common starch can be made with cold water and laid on very thick.

The paste should be allowed to become quite dry, and perhaps this process might answer for your wings if they are not too much soiled.

In regard to the parasol, you might get rid of the grease spot by laying on hot French chalk. This will dissolve and absorb the grease. Repeat the process if necessary. Next, the parasol should be opened and then thoroughly washed with gasoline and white soap all over its surface, more particularly on the soiled places.

Afterward sponge off with clear gasoline. By going over every part of the parasol there will be no danger of spots or streaks, and gasoline will not harm it. Keep away from fire or artificial heat during this process.

What Is to Be in Fashion.

It is quite in keeping with other tendencies that sleeves should cease to give breadth to the shoulders as figures must not be made to look top heavy. Whatever fullness some of them retain is restricted to that part of the arm that comes immediately below them. Milliners are even brought to book with respect to the exceeding size of their hats which, it is urged, do not suit the new mode in dresses, but as yet I see no signs of their being moved by any such arguments.

Waists continue to be made more or less short, but there is no particular care taken to make them look small as with the hips. On the other hand, throats must be made to appear long and slender. Not only are collars made as close-fitting and high as possible, but they are invariably finished by a ruching of lace or net—a fashion which in the long run comes expensive as they have to be continually renewed.—The Dry Goods Guide.

New Curtain Material.

A new drapery material that is quite inexpensive—19 cents a yard—is extremely pretty and cool-looking. It is not unlike a fine serim or a cotton voile as to background, and is printed in all the prettiest colorings, floral, conventional and stripes.

It is called Arabian cloth, and will be charming fashioned into window curtains and other draperies required for summer use.

In this material a dull ecru ground in a design of tulips is beautiful, and not less so, though more subdued, are the conventional effects in pastel tones.

coats and skirts or separate white skirts it is perhaps preferable to the linen.

Tight-Fitting Petticoats.

New petticoats are sold for the latest sheath dresses and they are made on the circular plan, so that there will be no fullness either at hips or knees. Of course, those who wear the sheath dress most correctly wear no petticoats whatsoever, but with thin dresses such as women of America wear, at least one petticoat is a necessity, and when it is made in the tight-fitting style it does not much interfere with the set of the graceful gown.

The Use of Braid.

There are white broadcloth costumes braided in black, but these are rather too conspicuous to be favorites with women who have but few gowns. It is thought more desirable to braid a dark costume with a light colored braid in order that the braid may be removed at some future time and the gown worn with a contrasting coat.

Pompadour ribbon applied as skirt borders and waist decorations make a delightful trimming for a dress.

SAVED AT THE CRISIS.

Delay Meant Death from Kidney Troubles.



Mrs. Herman Smith, 901 Broad Street, Athens, Ga., says: "Kidney disease started with slight irregularity and weakness and developed into dangerous dropsy. I became weak and languid, and could do no housework. My back ached terribly. I had bearing down pains and my limbs bloated to twice their normal size. Doctors did not help, and I was fast drifting into the hopeless stages. I used Doan's Kidney Pills at the critical moment and they really saved my life."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box, Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

WAS TOO MUCH FOR PAPA.

Childish Questions Were Becoming Entirely Too Personal.

There is a member of the faculty of George Washington university, who, to use the words of a colleague, "is as rotund physically as he is profound metaphysically," says the Philadelphia Ledger.

One day the professor chanced to come upon his children, of which he has a number, all of whom were, to his astonishment, engaged in an earnest discussion of the meaning of the word "absolute."

"Dad," queried one of the youngsters, "can a man be absolutely good?"

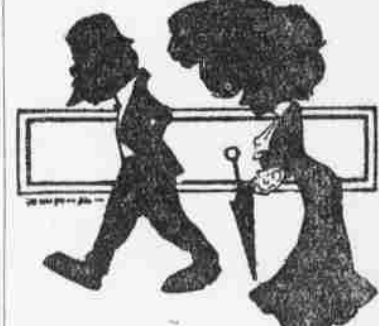
"No."

"Dad," put in another youngster, "can a man be absolutely bad?"

"No."

"Papa," ventured the third child, a girl, "can a man be absolutely fat?" Whereupon the father fled incontinently.

PROOF.



She—How do you know he's a book-keeper?

He—Well, I loaned him a book about five years ago and he never returned it.

The Cold Morning Bath.

The cold morning bath is recommended for those who can stand the cold bath, though countless many cannot. To prepare for it one should first sponge the body with cold water and step into a few inches of water drawn from a warm water pipe. It will not be warm or cold early in the morning. Splash the water over the body and wash hastily, letting the tub fill gradually. If the salt bath is used, do not throw the salt towel in the laundry. Let it collect the salt. In beauty parlors each individual has a salt towel that is used countless times, because it gets thoroughly saturated and is more beneficial. A cold bath should not last longer than five minutes.

Just Suppose.

"Just suppose," said Brother Dickey, "heaven wuz one big watermelon patch, an' it wuz de Foth er July de year round?"

"Go long, man," said Brother Williams, "you almos' makes me want ter go dar!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Waste not the remnant of thy life in those imaginings touching other folk, whereby thou contribute not to the common weal.—Marcus Aurelius.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigar is good quality all the time. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

Even a drunken man doesn't care to be held up by a footpad.



This woman says she was saved from an operation by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Lena V. Henry, of Norristown, Pa., writes to Mrs. Pinkham:

"I suffered untold misery from female troubles. My doctor said an operation was the only chance I had, and I dreaded it almost as much as death. One day I read how other women had been cured by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and I decided to try it. Before I had taken the first bottle I was better, and now I am entirely cured."

"Every woman suffering with any female trouble should take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

FACTS FOR SICK WOMEN.

For thirty years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from roots and herbs, has been the standard remedy for female ills, and has positively cured thousands of women who have been troubled with displacements, inflammation, ulceration, fibroid tumors, irregularities, periodic pains, backache, that bearing-down feeling, flatulency, indigestion, dizziness or nervous prostration. Why don't you try it?

Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.